UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/1017*
S/1996/623*
7 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 60, 81, 140, 145 and 146
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 3 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 3 August 1996 from H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you.

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 60, 81, 140, 145 and 146, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 3 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter of 27 December 1995 (A/50/857-S/1995/1064), I have the honour to convey the deep concern of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the continued hostile statements of the officials of the United States Government and its policies vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran which have, in the last few days, found alarming and threatening dimensions.

The United States Secretary of Defense and Speaker of the House have recently intensified their campaign of disinformation and hostile propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the reckless suggestion of military action against the Islamic Republic of Iran respectively on National Public Radio on 2 August and NBC's "Meet the Press" of 28 July - statements which represent blatant examples of political manipulation of public opinion already apprehensive about the recent tragic events. The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects these allegations and considers them an affront to its sovereignty.

The United States' threat of use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran constitutes an arrogant and callous disregard for the most basic principle of the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and a clear example of State terrorism. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the United States Government may be seeking an excuse to embark on adventurism against and confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of overwhelming opposition by the international community to its attempt for the extraterritorial application of its jurisdiction and particularly its policy on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to draw the attention of the international community to the potentially dangerous repercussions for international peace and security that such irresponsible and threatening behaviour by the United States Government could entail. It is needless to point out that the responsibility for such adverse effects should be borne by the United States alone. Prevention of such potentially dangerous consequences is the primary responsibility of the United Nations and you are hereby requested to take all necessary measures to prevent them.

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/624
5 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 20 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT

The Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to inform it that, following the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1054 (1996), the Swiss authorities have decided autonomously to adopt the following measures:

- a more restrictive policy towards the granting of visas to Sudanese nationals;

- concentration of visa granting activities in Berne, since only the Federal Department of Justice is competent in this matter,

all this in accordance with paragraph 3 (b) of the above-mentioned resolution.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/624*
6 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached communication, dated 20 May 1996, was addressed to the Secretariat of the United Nations by the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

[Original: French]

Note verbale dated 20 May 1996 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat of the United Nations

The Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to inform it that, following the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1054 (1996), the Swiss authorities have decided autonomously to adopt the following measures:

- a more restrictive policy towards the granting of visas to Sudanese nationals;

- concentration of visa granting activities in Berne, since only the Federal Department of Justice is competent in this matter,

all this in accordance with paragraph 3 (b) of the above-mentioned resolution.

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Security Council

Distr.
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S/1996/625
5 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place on 25 and 26 July 1996. At 2300 hours on 25 July, as it was approaching Khawr al-Amayah and heading for the entrance to Khawr Abd Allah, the Iraqi tender Al-Fida' was followed and provoked by a United States Navy helicopter. Despite the fact that the tender responded to the questions addressed to it through various means of communication concerning its name, its point of departure, its destination, the number of crew members on board and the cargo being carried, those on board the helicopter nevertheless continued to impede its departure and to place it in danger. At 0005 hours on 26 July the personnel of the United States helicopter again made contact with the crew of the tender and asked it to proceed to an area designated by them for purposes of inspection. A helicopter then overflew the tender at low altitude, turning on bright lights and issuing warnings through its loud hailer. At 0100 hours the tender arrived at a point six nautical miles south-west of Mina' al-Bakr and was required by the United States Navy to remain there until morning.

At 0600 hours United States warship No. 39 approached and asked for the same information as before. In the meantime, a boat set out from the same warship with 18 heavily armed United States Navy personnel on board carrying communications equipment. They boarded the tender, deployed throughout the vessel and took the names of the crew members and a copy of its papers. At 0730 hours the United States Navy personnel left the tender.

I request your intervention with the Government of the United States of America with a view to bringing a halt to acts such as these. They have become more frequent in recent times, and they are carried out by United States Navy personnel without justification or provocation in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. They confirm that it is the intention of the United States Government to exacerbate tension in the region and to bring about a state of alarm and instability there for its own particular purposes. I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the damage caused by this provocative act.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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5 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 5 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to my letter dated 18 July 1996 (S/1996/578), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 August 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 3 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to my letter of 17 July 1996 concerning the latest Turkish attacks on the territory of the Republic of Iraq (S/1996/578, annex) and to inform you that Turkish forces are still engaged in military operations inside Iraq's territory and airspace on the pretext of being in pursuit of elements belonging to the Kurdish Workers' Party. On 10 July 1996 the following incidents occurred:

1. Turkish warplanes bombarded the Buse area of northern Iraq, injuring seven persons, setting fire to 15 homes and killing some livestock.

2. Turkish warplanes, carrying out 15 sorties, bombarded Butah camp in the mountains in the northern region of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq rejects outright the justifications advanced by Turkey and condemns the Turkish incursions as constituting a flagrant and serious violation of Iraq's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. It calls for an immediate halt to these attacks in order to avert any deterioration in the situation between the two countries and prevent damage to Iraqi citizens that is incompatible with relations of good-neighbourliness, the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement. The attacks create an alarming situation not only for Iraq but also for Turkey and for the region as a whole, which is primarily suffering from the anomalous situation brought about by the Americans and their allies in northern Iraq.

Iraq has on many occasions in the past alerted its neighbour Turkey to the consequences of allowing those circumstances to persist that prolong the anomalous situation in northern Iraq. The experience of the past five years - since 1991 - has demonstrated in a manner that leaves no room for doubt that the requirement to allow the forces involved in the so-called "Operation Poised Hammer" to remain in Turkish territory on various pretexts has been no more than a cover for aggression against Iraq and interference in its internal affairs.

Iraq calls attention to the fact that it has in the past frequently assured its Turkish neighbour that addressing the relevant problems will require it to cooperate and coordinate its action directly with Iraq in order to bring an end to the situation in question, since it has become clear that its perpetuation can only cause further difficulties and further destruction for Turkey and for the region, just as for Iraq itself.

The Government of Iraq reserves its right to seek compensation for the damage caused by these Turkish violations of its territory and airspace, and it renews its call to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its policies with respect to the situation in northern Iraq and to promote the cooperation of the two countries on the basis of the same considerations of good-neighbourliness

and mutual respect for sovereignty to which Iraq is committed. It will thus be possible to eliminate the reasons for the persistence of a situation that jeopardizes the interests of both countries and the realization of their desire to establish security and stability in the region and fulfil the aspirations of the two peoples for prosperity and progress.

While reiterating my country's appeal to its Turkish neighbour, through you, to respect the sovereignty of Iraq and the inviolability of its territory, I hope that the Security Council will meet the responsibilities entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security and that it will prevent any continuance of the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1996/627
5 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to the letter of 3 August 1996 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (S/1996/632), I have the honour to inform you of a series of violations of the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran and provocative acts by the forces of the United States of America in the Persian Gulf.

1. On 3 August 1996, at 1745 hours, an American fighter violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bushehr and broke the sound barrier.

2. On 3 August 1996, at 2300 hours, an American fighter flying from west to east violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran over Abu Musa island.

3. On 3 August 1996, at 2330 hours, more than 20 American F-14 and F-15 fighters were observed flying 30 miles south of Bushehr.

It would be appreciated if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/627*
13 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to the letter of 3 August 1996 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (S/1996/632), I have the honour to inform you of a series of violations of the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran and provocative acts by the forces of the United States of America in the Persian Gulf.

1. On 3 August 1996, at 1745 hours, an American fighter violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bushehr and broke the sound barrier.

2. On 3 August 1996, at 2300 hours, an American fighter flying from west to east violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran over Abu Musa island.

3. On 3 August 1996, at 2330 hours, more than 20 American F-14 and F-15 fighters were observed flying 30 miles south of Bushehr.

It would be appreciated if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/628
5 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached letter dated 5 August 1996 from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was addressed to the Secretary-General.

In accordance with the request contained therein, the letter and its enclosure are circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex

Letter dated 5 August 1996 from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the communiqué issued this morning, 5 August 1996, by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, regarding the current situation in Burundi.

I shall be most grateful if you can arrange to have the communiqué circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM

Appendix

Communiqué on Burundi issued at Addis Ababa on 5 August 1996

1. The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met at the ambassadorial level on 5 August 1996, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2. The meeting considered the report of the Secretary-General on recent developments in Burundi and additional briefing by the Secretary-General on the outcome of the second Arusha Regional Summit of 31 July 1996, which brought together leaders of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Zaire as well as the Foreign Minister of Cameroon representing the Current Chairman of OAU.

3. The Central Organ recalled the decision of the Yaounde Summit of July 1996 as well as its earlier decisions on Burundi.

4. The Central Organ paid tribute to the leaders of the countries of the subregion for their efforts in finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict in Burundi.

5. The Central Organ fully supported the conclusions of the second Arusha Regional Summit and, in particular, appealed to the international community to lend its strong support for the speedy implementation of those decisions.

6. The Central Organ calls upon the regime in Bujumbura to undertake immediate measures to end illegality and restore constitutional order in Burundi.

7. The Central Organ furthermore calls upon the regime in Bujumbura and all the other parties inside and outside Burundi to take advantage of the appeals by the leaders of the region, for the immediate and unconditional resumption of dialogue and negotiations under the auspices of the Mwanza Peace Talks facilitated by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, which seek to guarantee democracy and security for all Burundians.

8. The Central Organ appeals to all the people of Burundi to remain calm and avoid any actions that might jeopardize the peace process.

9. The Central Organ, having considered the role of the OAU Mission in Burundi, especially, in the light of the new situation in that country, came to the conclusion that the military component of the Mission, has lost its relevance. Consequently, the Central Organ decided to terminate the deployment of the military component of the Mission as soon as possible. The Central Organ also decided that depending on the evolution of the situation in Burundi, the Secretary-General should consider the possibility of strengthening the civilian and political component of the Mission.

10. The Central Organ requested the Secretary-General to follow closely the situation in Burundi and to remain seized of any further developments.

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/272
S/1996/629
6 August 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 33 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 6 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the local inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in the first half of July 1996.

1 July 1996

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area and carried out mock attacks.

2 July 1996

At 1015 hours the town of Yanta, Wadi al-Aswad locality, Rashayya district, came under Israeli attack. It was targeted at long range by three rockets, and property damage was sustained.

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the western Bekaa area.

3 July 1996

At 1200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Sidon area and the neighbouring camps at medium altitudes.

* A/51/150.

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4 July 1996

At 2145 hours Abu Rashid hill, outside Maydun, came under intermittent artillery fire from Israeli positions.

5 July 1996

At 1145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitudes.

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Arab Salim and Luwayzah and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah spring came under Israeli artillery fire.

7 July 1996

At 1415 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at high altitudes.

8 July 1996

At 2000 hours the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills, outlying areas of Arab Salim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar, and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah spring came under Israeli artillery fire.

10 July 1996

At 0940 hours Tibnin and outlying areas of Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha came under Israeli artillery fire. Two fragmentation shells fell alongside the headquarters of the Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in Tibnin.

13 July 1996

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Jba', Wadi Kafra-Jba' and Kafr Fila, the highway in the area and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. The shelling extended to outlying areas of Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the outskirts of Luwayzah and Jba'.

15 July 1996

At 0845 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

Israel's persistent refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and its continued occupation of Lebanese territory are perpetuating the cycle of violence.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have caused further serious damage to property. Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and

independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative